Eminem Apologizes For Old Track That Dissed Black Women

Second statement on the matter also lashes out at The Source.
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In his second statement on the matter, Eminem apologized Thursday (December 4) for an old freestyle in which he offensively disses black women, and he took *The Source* to task for trying to exploit the recording.

Two weeks ago, in a much ballyhooed press conference, *The Source* magazine co-founder and rapper Benzino unveiled what he perceived to be a smoking gun showing Eminem was destructive to hip-hop culture (see [article id="1480512"]"*The Source* Digs Up Tape Of Eminem Using Racial Slurs"[/article]). Whatever the motives behind Benzino's revelation, the rap community promptly began to debate whether Eminem's youthful rhymes reflected his true personality.

In Thursday's page-long statement, Eminem said the tape "in no way represents who I was then or who I am today. In becoming an adult, I've seen what hip-hop and rap music can do to touch millions of people. The music can be truly powerful, and it has helped improve race relations in a very real way. I want to use this negative attack on me as a positive opportunity to show that."

The Source claims the recording was made in 1993, while Eminem says it was recorded 15 years ago. The discrepancy means the difference between a tape recorded by a grown man and a growing adolescent.

Eminem's statement went on to say that unveiling the tape was "really nothing more than blatant self-promotion for a failing magazine and one man's lifeless music career. They're scared of what can happen if the hip-hop community shows it can live without them."

Though Eminem's initial statement two weeks ago didn't feature the words "I'm sorry," this time he put forth a clear apology. "So while I think common sense tells you not to judge a man by what he may have said when he was a boy, I will say it straight up: I am sorry I said those things when I was 16. And I don't want to let anybody turn this into an opportunity to promote their own bullsh-- agenda."

A track called "Bully," the latest volley in the Eminem/Benzino beef, recently appeared online as part of a bootleg Eminem EP called *Straight From the Lab* (see [article id="1480894"]"Eminem's Benzino Dis Turns Up In *The Lab*"[/article]).